

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 DHA-02 ORM-01 PRS-01 SCA-01

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5655

INFO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

S E C R E T HONG KONG 7362

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: POLITICAL ASYLUM REQUEST OF EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINAL" TUAN KO-WAN

REF: HONG KONG 7331

1. HKG REACTION ON BEING INFORMED OF TUAN REQUEST TO CONGEN FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM WAS AN ANTICIPATED IN REFTEL. POLITICAL ADVISER DONALD TOLD DOP JUNE 30 THAT POLITICAL ASYLUM AS SUCH WAS INAPPROPRIATE, AS TUAN'S FULL RIGHTS AS A CITIZEN OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC HAD BEEN RESTORED TO HIM. HE WAS THEREFORE IN NO DANGER OF PERSECUTION SHOULD HE RETURN TO CHINA. DONALD, HOWEVER, URGED PERMISSION BE GRANTED FOR TUAN TO ENTER THE US UNDER SOME OTHER ARRANGEMENT, AND MADE CLEAR HKG'S DESIRE TO SEE THE MEN MOVED OUT OF HK SOMEWAY AND SOON.

2. DONALD RECOUNTED A MEETING HE HAD EARLY THAT DAY WITH PRC REPRESENTATIVES HERE WHO SOUGHT A FURTHER EXTENSION OF STAY FOR THE EX-"KMT WAR CRIMINALS". DONALD HAD ASKED THE CHINESE IF THEY WERE DOING THE RIGHT THING IN CONTINUING TO KEEP THESE MEN IN HONG KONG IN THEIR FRUSTRATED BID TO GO TO TAIWAN. HE POINTED OUT THAT ONE MAN HAD ALREADY TAKEN HIS OWN LIFE AS A RESULT OF THIS INTOLERABLE SITUATION. THE CHINESE REPLIED THAT THEY WISHED TO GIVE " OUR COMPATRIOTS IN TAIWAN A CHANCE

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TO DO WHAT THEY SHOULD" IN TAKING BACK THESE OLD SOLDIERS.

3. DONALD GRANTED ANOTHER MONTHS EXTENSION BUT TOLD THE CHINESE IT WOULD BE THE LAST. HE CALLED TO THEIR ATTENTION THAT ONE OF THE MEN, CHEN SHIH-CHANG WAS OBTAINING A VISA FOR THE US, NOT TAIWAN, BUT THE CHINESE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS FINE WITH THEM. THE EX-PRISONERS COULD GO TO ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY. THE PRC WAS NOT INSISTING IT BE TAIWAN ONLY.

4. STORY IN THE SOUTH CHINA POST THIS MORNING (ULY 1) CITES RELIABLE SOURCES AS DISCLOSING THAT THE PRC HAS OFFERED TO BEAR "FULL TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF THE NINE REMAINING FORMER KUOMINTANG PRISONERS OF WAR IF THEY GET VISAS TO JOIN THEIR RELATIVES IN ANY COUNTRY". STORY WAS PROBABLY INSPIRED BY HKG, BUT TWO OF THE EX-PRISONERS ARE CITED AS CONFIRMING THE OFFER, AND IT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE RESOURCEFUL AND GENEROUS POSE THE PRC REPS HERE HAVE STRUCK IN MANIPULATING THIS AFFAIR FROM THE OUTSET. CHEN SHIH-CHANG, IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE SUCH AN OFFER BY PRC REPRESENTATIVES HERE.

5. TUAN REQUEST FOR ASYLUM HAS NOT LEAKED TO THE PRESS, BUT THE CHEN VISA CASE CONTINUES TO BE CLOSELY FOLLOWED, AND HIS SON-IN-LAW, WHO HAS COME FROM THE US TO ASSIST, IS UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE FROM THE PRESS.

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